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AMUSEMENTS.

Academy—"The Merry Countess."
"The Lyric, matinee and night—Keith vaudeville."
Bijou—"East Lynne" in pictures.
Colonial—Vaudeville.
Little Theatre—Pictures.

Double Opening To-Day.
Coincident with the buzz of expectation usually accompanying the blaring trumpets of the theatrical season which properly starts in this city today, when the Lyric will throw open its doors for the first time with a genuine Keith vaudeville bill, and the Academy stage will receive its well-booked season with the presentation of "The Merry Countess," the air of anticipated amusement pervaded the streets and the lobbies of the principal hotels last night.

For the Academy's opening, the company to present the initial performance of the musical romance that is so suggestive of the excellence that accompanied its sister offering, "The Merry Widow," have been in this city for three days brushing up any rough edges that may have remained. Similarly so of the artists to properly introduce Keith vaudeville at the Lyric. Quite all of them have just returned from their mountain homes and seashore cottages after recuperating their bodies and keying up their talents during the summer months.

Last night the illumination of the Lyric exterior gathered thousands to view from the interior of the new amusement palace. The artists already in the city were on hand in large numbers. Some of them "elocutionized" their way inside, to go into raptures over the beauty of the interior. Willard Simms and his company, Herbie and his troupe of twenty-four canines of all sizes and descriptions, James Francis Dooley and Corinne Saytes, and the dancing duo, Scott rotated between the hotels and the theatre, they will have the happiness to launch auspiciously to-day.

While the Bijou will not begin its regular season until next week, it will open to-day with "East Lynne" in pictures. There will be two performances daily.

BOB DISCOVERED BY JAKE WELLS

Alexander and Scott, Virginia Products, on Lyric Bill This Week.

Of Alexander and Scott, who are on the new Lyric bill this week, there is a tale of interest and mystery that permeated the atmosphere about that theatre. While it is probable many local theatregoers will readily believe the fact that they are sons of Virginia—that many have seen their exhibitions elsewhere else where in the United States, not so many will remember that the birth of that cleverness happened in Richmond. More than a decade of years ago, when what was the Colonial Theatre was the Bijou and Jake Wells was in his first flight to success as vaudeville offerings, a young female impersonator had attracted attention through his appearance at amateur evening entertainments and benefit performances in Norfolk and Portsmouth. His glance at young Alexander was sufficient for the wonderfully energetic Jake Wells to discover the possession of abundant latent talent, and to encourage Alexander for appearance in Richmond. His success was immediate and immense.

Arthur Alexander was the pupil and protégé of Laura de Russy Barry, of Norfolk. His first offering was the kind that has made her, the male Patti, famous. Vocally, Alexander was far superior to Stuart, and from his modest beginning in this city he has risen to a mighty success in American footlight records.

Shortly thereafter, also joined fortunes with Harry Scott, also a Portmouth, Va., product. Together they have established their offering as the premier of its kind on the American stage. In the past few years, Alexander's impersonations have caused him to be compared favorably with Julian Eltinge, generally regarded as peerless in this line of work. As a tribute to Alexander's cleverness, was his selection by Sam Harris, George M. Cohan and George (Honey) Hoyt Evans to succeed to the role of "The Honey Boy" Minstrels when Eltinge's popularity brought about his engagement by Al Woods to head a company of his own.

Alexander and Scott's engagement has given rise to more gossip than any of the other prominent numbers on the Lyric's initial bill. To them it is a work of such satisfaction and pleasure to be able to assist Jake Wells in launching of his new local venture that they have delayed the opening of their regular season and canceled earlier bookings that would have carried them to points in the United States that would have prevented their presence for the opening ceremonies here.

Bonds for Road Improvement.

Charlottesville, Va., August 24.—The highway committee of the local Chamber of Commerce has decided to require the city for a bond issue of \$20,000,

The Iowa State Society, at a picnic today at which 20,000 persons attended, discussed resolutions condemning prizefighting and advocating the abolition of the sport entirely.

The morning newspapers generally printed first page editorials condemning the present law, which allows "boxing contests" for prizes.

The Evans skirmish match was finished in this event, and his arse winning for good luck. While they do not entertain the idea of being near the sport in this event, they all are wishing to be among the 200 highest in the first stage, so as not to be eliminated, and to have the chance of shooting in the final stage.

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